

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, December 10, 2012

Present: Hayden B. Duke, Chair
 Paula C. Bell, Vice-Chair
 Philip A. Dacey, Commission Member
 Harold Otis, Commission Member
 Jesse Goode, Jr., Commission Member
 Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Absent: E. Donald Foster, Alternate Commission Member

Mr. Duke called to order a meeting of the Frederick County Ethics Commission at 7:00 p.m. on December 10, 2012, in the Winchester Room on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Approval of the November 5, 2012 meeting minutes – A draft of the minutes was emailed to the Commission members before the meeting. There were no requests for changes.

MOTION: Mr. Otis made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Goode seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Discussion of Commission procedures – Mr. Duke advised the Commission members that he would email them the text of the revised procedure on the selection of Commission officers and filling mid-term vacancies. The procedure was adopted at the November 5, 2012 meeting.

Meeting with Frederick County Building Industry Association representatives – The Commission met with Jeremy Holder, Mark Friis, and Denise Jacoby to discuss a request for an interpretation of the Lobbying Ordinance. Eric Soter, the Director of the Community Development Division, also attended this portion of the meeting. The Association attendees discussed different situations that commonly arise in their dealings with County officials and employees and how the Lobbying Ordinance might apply to those situations. The Commission members then discussed how the Ordinance should be interpreted and provided guidance to the Senior Assistant County Attorney on drafting an advisory opinion. The attorney was directed to prepare a draft advisory opinion for the Commission members to review.

Discussion of the impact on the Commission of the move to a Charter form of government – Mr. Duke asked that the Commission members give some thought to the changes to the Ethics Ordinance that might be required as the result of the change to a Charter form of government in two years. This item will be scheduled for discussion in a few months.

Discussion of whether to conduct an administrative function meeting – A Commission member raised the possibility of holding an administrative function meeting to discuss a pending complaint. The members decided that there was no need to meet on that topic until the next Commission meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Otis moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 7:55 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney